

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB345

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 08, 2011
Committee On: Banking, Commerce and Insurance
Introducer: Conrad
One Liner: Adopt the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Christensen, Gloor, Langemeier, McCoy, Pahls, Pankonin, Utter
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Pirsch
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Senator Danielle Conrad
Mark Gustafson
Tom Chapman

Representing:

Introducer
University of NE
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

OVERVIEW

LB345 (Conrad) would enact eight new sections to be known as the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act to establish a statewide pilot program to provide technical assistance for up to forty Nebraska-based growth businesses, at least one-half of which shall be in counties with a population of fewer than 50,000.

SUMMARY

The bill would provide, section by section, as follows:

Section 1 would provide for a named act: the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act.

Section 2 would provide for a statement of legislative intent.

Section 3 would provide for definitions: (1) "department;" (2) "economic gardening" (the provision of technical resources to locally owned and operated Nebraska-based growth businesses); and (3) "Nebraska-based growth business" (a Nebraska domestic business entity with five to 50 employees and annual sales revenue of no less than \$500,000 and no more than \$2,500,000).

Section 4 would provide that the Department of Economic Development may enter into a contract with a Nebraska-based nonprofit entity, small business development center, community development corporation, Nebraska-based institution of higher education, chamber of commerce, or regional development district for the purpose

of carrying out the act.

Section 5 would provide that a statewide pilot program is established by the bill to support and assist up to forty Nebraska-based growth businesses, at least one-half of which shall be located in counties with a population of fewer than 50,000 inhabitants.

Section 6 would provide that it is the intent of the legislature to reallocate \$200,000 of General Funds appropriated for FY2011-12 and \$175,000 of General Funds appropriated for FY2012-13 to provide tax credits under the Community Development Assistance Act in order to supplement funding allocated to carry out the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act.

Section 7 would provide for preparation and presentment of a report by January 1, 2013.

Section 8 would provide that the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act shall sunset on January 1, 2013.

Section 9 would amend section 13-208 of the Community Development Assistance Act to provide that for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 the total tax credits granted for programs approved and certified under the act by the Department of Economic Development shall not exceed \$200,000 rather than \$350,000.

Section 10 would provide for a repealer of the amendatory section.

Section 11 would provide for the emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendments (AM273) would become the bill. Throughout the bill they would change the term "economic gardening" to "small business innovation" and would change the name of the act from "the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Act" to "the Small Business Innovation Act."

Rich Pahls, Chairperson